

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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AUGUST 15, 2002

Candidates

As a public service, the News Review is providing biographies for all of the candidates who are running in the new District 22.

Patricia Unger

Patricia M. Unger is a candidate in the September 10 primary for an at-large position on the Democratic Central Committee, 22nd legislative district.



Pat Unger has lived in Greenbelt since she and her husband John settled their young family here in 1962. She has been active in community organizations (Co-op Nursery School, PTAs, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, GIVES, Golden Age Club) and Democratic party politics.

A veteran of nearly 40 years of county and state campaigns, since October 1999 she has been a member of the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee as a gender-equity appointee. She worked as a volunteer on the newsletter staff of the Maryland Hospitality Committee at the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles and was the 23rd legislative district's coordinator for the Campaign 2000 effort for Gore-Lieberman, Sarbanes and Hoyer.

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1937, but raised in Massachusetts, she is a graduate of Palmer (Mass.) High School. She completed a B.A. degree in English and secondary education at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1959 and earned an M.Ed. in adult reading remediation there in 1987.

After "staying home" for 14 years to raise four children, Unger taught part-time and supervised Prince George's adult education evening programs starting in 1973. In 1976, she returned to full-time teaching as the instructor for a General Educational Development (GED) class in the County Detention Center in Upper Marlboro and in 1981 moved to a correctional education position in the newly-opened Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup in the state prison system.

See **UNGER**, page 8

What Goes On

Wednesday, August 21 8 p.m., Council Worksession on CAR Review and Manager Evaluation Tool, Community Center

Goddard Center Master Plan Provokes Citizen Criticism

by Virginia Beauchamp

The ambience of the meeting for the larger community last week encompassing the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) could not have been more different from the corresponding tone at that earlier public meeting when the plan was announced to close Soil Conservation Road through the GSFC campus.

At that earlier, packed meeting on February 5, 2001, area residents, one after another, stood up to complain, often angrily, about a decision reached without community input – not only that the road would be closed, but that its bypass around the campus would be moved to the west. At succeeding meetings, especially involving residents living east of the NASA facility, that charge was heard again and again.

Before being made public, the original plan for the western bypass had been agreed to by officials from nearby agencies, such as the State Highway Administration, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Ft. Meade, and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Following the public outcry, however, the city of Greenbelt contacted Congressman Steny Hoyer, with copies to U.S. Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski and Congressman Albert Wynn, expressing concern. In an April 2001 letter, Mayor Judith Davis described the process as "one where the public is being told what is going to happen, not one which has solicited public input for purposes of influencing the outcome."

Apparently chastened, Goddard officials went back to the literal drawing board and redesigned their 20-year master plan to redevelop and modernize the

facility – this time with Soil Conservation Road moved to the east, where it will intersect with Good Luck Road.

This decision has slowed down by more than a year the calendar for reaching approval from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), a necessary first-step in beginning the redevelopment process. According to Kim Toufexis, project manager for the facilities master plan, it will be submitted to the NCPC on September 5. Members of the public are therefore invited to make comments, in written form, at any time until September 3.

The new master plan consists of three parts, Toufexis said. These comprise the facilities master plan, the transportation management plan, and the environmental assessment. All three are set forth in a draft proposal, a copy of which is available for public review in the Greenbelt Library.

August 6 Meeting

Unlike the contentious earlier meeting, in which over 120 people crowded into the auditorium at Goddard Visitors Center, the August 6 meeting was scheduled at DuVal High School. This change of venue became mandatory because of stepped-up security at GSFC since September 11.

Slightly fewer than 60 people turned out this time and the mood was quiet, since the decision had been made to move the Soil Conservation Road bypass route to the east. Large display posters set up on easels showed before-and-after views of different aspects of the proposed design.

Only sketchy drawings, however, depicted four possible vari-

See **MASTER PLAN**, page 12

Metts Addresses Greenbelt's Concerns on Crowding

by Mary Moien

In mid-June, Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis wrote to Dr. Iris T. Metts regarding overcrowding at Springhill Lake Elementary School. Metts, chief executive officer, Prince George's County Public Schools, has replied to the city. She described three actions that have taken place that should decrease the number of students at Springhill Lake School from 960 last year to 860 this year. In addition the letter states that all other elementary schools in the City of Greenbelt are within their State rated capacities. Greenbelt Elementary is the only other elementary within the city boundaries.

First, to decrease the number of students, Springhill Lake Elementary school boundaries have been adjusted. Secondly, ESOL

(English for Speakers of Other Languages) boundaries were also narrowed to include only pupils within the "comprehensive attendance area of Springhill Lake." The letter from Metts stated that "with the exception of the Special Needs wing and the Head Start Program, Springhill Lake is, indeed, a community school."

The letter continued by describing the return of the sixth graders from Greenbelt Middle School to Springhill Lake Elementary. This "adheres to our educational philosophy of kindergarten to grade six schools."

Metts has indicated that the school system is "monitoring the enrollment frequently" and will notify the city if enrollment does not decrease sufficiently or begins to climb again.

Hoyer Honors Honeybees, Preserves BARC Bee Lab

by Barbara Young

The Honeybee Laboratory at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) will not be closed, Dr. Wanda Collins, director of Plant Sciences, said in her introduction of Steny Hoyer, 5th District Congressional representative, who came to the lab on August 6 to applaud its work and talk about his continuing efforts to see that it stays open. Collins stood in for BARC Director Dr. Phyllis Johnson, who could not be present.

"I hope this is not a sting operation," Hoyer said as he donned a beekeeper suit and waded in among the bee hives. "My birth and the birth of the Bee Lab happened in the same year – 1939," he joked.

In a serious vein, he told the group, which included Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis, that President Bush had proposed closing the facility and consolidating its work and that of two other labs in Texas. "He was actually surprised that I want to keep it in Maryland, [but] I know how great this research is," he told the audience assembled in a wooded clearing outside the lab.

The amount which Hoyer requested be kept in the House Appropriations Committee agricul-



Congressman Steny Hoyer, dressed in bee keeper's gear, cautiously admires a flat of honeybees during August 6 visit to BARC Bee Lab.

ture bill for the bee lab is \$2 million, a modest-sounding amount in relative terms. Hoyer also requested and got full funding for each of the BARC research projects. He has vowed to continue to fight any future attempts to terminate funding for BARC research.

"This is the only temperate area where bees operate, and if you are going to consolidate, it

See **BARC BEES**, page 12

Part II

Three Greenbelt Towns Today Same Concept, Diverse Paths

by Jordan Choper

This is the second and final installment of an article by Jordan Choper describing his visit to the other two greenbelt towns, Greendale, Wisc. and Greenhills, Ohio.

When the government sold Greendale, the village government hired the original town planner and kept him on board. He finished the total plan over a period of many years. So Greendale is the only greenbelt town to be completely planned by the original planner. Greenbelt's development, in contrast, was not controlled by our own government and the way it grew did not reflect the original concept of the city.

When the government did sell the three towns, they used a different method of liquidation in Greenhills and Greendale from what occurred in Greenbelt. In Greenbelt the residents formed a housing cooperative – which is now Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated – and bought the town from the government in basically one piece. Most of the original apartment buildings were purchased by others. In the other two towns, the government held a lottery as to who would be the owner of a particular building. Hence, even though some people may have lived in a unit for over 10 years, if they lost the lottery they became the tenant of some-

one else who became their neighbor and landlord. Owners did not have to live in the home that they won, nor was there a limitation on owning more than one home or building. A large percentage of the occupants thereby became tenants and much of the housing stock became rental units. In Greenhills this has led to a situation where the village is now buying up some of the rental units, and, according to a few of the residents, the unspoken plan is to keep some of the units and demolish those which need too much repair, rebuilding on the site with single family homes which will be owner occupied.

The units which the Village of Greenhills is purchasing are row homes of frame design. They are larger than our frame homes and they have two service entrances, i.e., one into a hallway that leads alongside a separate living room to a kitchen and dining room on the garden side of the unit. A staircase with a landing connects the hallway to the upstairs. The second service en-

See **TOWNS**, page 5

Letters to the Editor

Firefighters Removed

Attention everyone who lives and works in the Greenbelt area. On August 1, Prince George's County removed its paid firefighters and emergency medical services staff from the Branchville, Cottage City and Ritchie firehouses with no notice to the citizens or elected officials in these communities. This leaves the volunteers there now covering these areas 24 hours a day. It can just as swiftly and coldly happen to you. Take a moment to voice your displeasure to County Executive Wayne Curry at 301-952-4131 and Fire Chief Ron Blackwell at 301-952-4723 about their lack of concern for the safety of you, your families and your community. As we come up on the anniversary of September 11, a day when so many firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty, remember that the firefighters at Company 35 in Greenbelt, as well as those at Branchville, were battling the fire at the Pentagon. At a time when we should be showing gratitude for their sacrifice and dedication to us, the county executive and his administration have abandoned them and compromised your safety. The volunteers have always been there for you. Now in their time of need, it is our turn to be there for them.

David Downs

Contacts Suggested At School Board

At the end of the last school year, the Prince George's County School Board underwent a major transition from an elected school board representing county districts to an appointed at-large school board. The transition opens up many questions and one of these is "who do you call" when you have a problem.

The Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) recently asked this question of the school board members who live in Greenbelt and represent the

county at large. One suggestion is that people call the school board member who chairs the committee concerning the issue in question. Therefore, ACE has obtained the following contact list of committee assignments and suggests parents and community members contact the committee chair when they have a question or concern:

- Technology Committee: Beatrice Tignor
- Legislative Committee: Howard Stone
- Planning and Policy Committee: John Bailor
- Instruction/Accountability Committee: Abby Crowley
- Student Appeals Committee: Charlene Dukes
- Personnel Committee: Charlene Dukes
- Finance, Budget & Audit Committee: Robert Duncan
- Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee: Jose Morales
- Master Plan Committee: Judy Mickens-Murray
- Business Roundtable, Partnerships & Communications Committee: Dean Sirjue

In addition, Dr. Iris Metts, Prince George's County Schools CEO, has indicated that she is the point person to contact on transportation and school bus problems or issues. The phone number to call is 301-952-6008.

School board members can be contacted through the county school's website www.pgcps.org by clicking on their name or by calling 301-952-6116 or faxing 301-951-6114. When in doubt people can always contact all the school board members, Chair Beatrice Tignor or the CEO Iris Metts.

Leta M. Mach

Correction

In the August 8 "Our Neighbors," we misspelled Richard Keely's name as Kelly. We regret the error.

Firefighters to Rally in Branchville

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, the mayors of Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights, New Carrollton, and Colmar Manor will lead a rally to protest the recent loss of paid firefighters at the Branchville, Cottage City/Colmar Manor, and Ritchie fire stations. The rally will be held at the Branchville Volunteer Fire Company at 4905 Branchville Road,



College Park. This decision by the Prince George's Fire Department to redeploy paid firefighters to other areas of the county reduces the level of fire and emergency medical services to Greenbelt and nearby communities. The mayors have

invited all the county executive candidates to the rally to address the issue and outline how they would resolve the problem.

Voter Registration Deadline Is Tuesday

Citizens wishing to vote in the upcoming Maryland primary election must be registered to vote no later than Tuesday, August 20.

Voter registration applications are available at all Motor Vehicle Administration branch offices, state Department of Health offices, local Department of Social Services branches, Offices on Aging, and Division of Rehabilitation Services branches. Citizens may also obtain a voter registration application at marriage license bureaus, community colleges, post offices, public libraries, and their local Boards of Elections. Residents can also obtain a voter registration application by going on-line to the website www.electionsmaryland.com or by calling the Maryland Board of Elections toll-free at 1-800-222-VOTE (8683) 24 hours a day.

Other important 2002 Maryland Election Calendar dates include: Tuesday, September 10 – Primary Election Day; Tuesday, October 15 – Last day to register to vote before the general election, and Tuesday, November 5 – General Election Day.

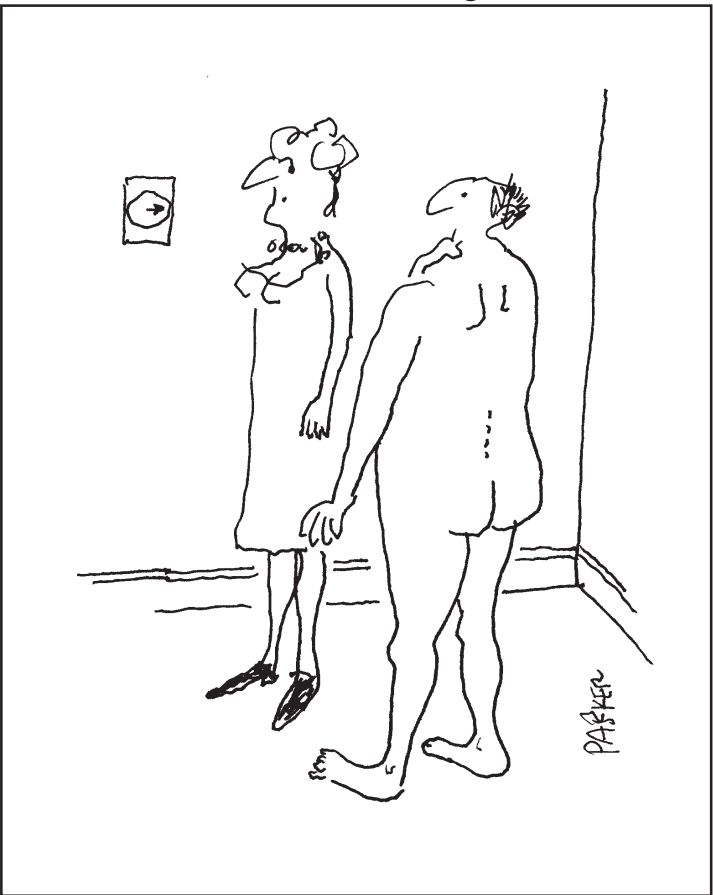
Beauchamp, Page At Book Signing

Greenbelter Virginia Walcott Beauchamp and Washington Post reporter Lisa Frazier Page will be featured at a book signing and reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on August 22 at the Largo-Kettering Community Library. The event, described as a networking occasion, is sponsored by the office of Dorothy Bailey, a member of the Prince George's County Council, the Prince George's County Departments of Human Services and of Family Services, and Women in Network (WIN).

Beauchamp is coordinating editor of a newly published edition of a 1529 translation of a major work on women and their role in society, "The Instruction of a Christen Woman" by the Spanish author Juan Luis Vives. Page's book, "The Pact," describes three inner-city high school boys who agreed to support each other for as long as it would take for them to become doctors.

The reception is open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Those planning to attend are asked to call Charisse Armistead at 301-985-3532 by August 19.

The Old Curmudgeon



I. J. PARKER ©2002

"What time is the air-conditioning repairman supposed to come?"

REGISTER TO VOTE! DEADLINE IS AUGUST 20

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER
presents
An Evening with Friends
Saturday, September 7, 2002 8 PM
Featuring the New Deal Cafe's Star - Ren Rick
Folk guitarist, vocalist and songwriter
&
Star of the local stage, Phillip Brandeis
If you would like to be part of this variety show,
contact Konrad Herling at (301) 345-9369
Tickets: \$10/\$8 for students and seniors

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
James Giese, president; Eileen Farnham, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Mary Moien, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Barbara Hopkins, and Judy Bell.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center 15 Crescent Road during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club

Fall Soccer, Cheerleading and Football

Register at Greenbelt Youth Center:

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS ONLY from 7pm-8pm

Ages 7+
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COACH A SPORT?
Coaches are also needed for Cheerleading, Soccer & Basketball

Don't forget to ask about family discounts
For more info. call our 24HR Voicemail at 301-794-0100 press #7

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

Week of August 16

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG)
Woody Allen's Hollywood Ending (PG-13)

Friday
My Big Fat Greek Wedding
*5:25, 7:30, 9:40

Saturday
Hollywood Ending *1:00
My Big Fat Greek Wedding
*3:20, *5:25, 7:30, 9:40

Sunday
Hollywood Ending *1:00
My Big Fat Greek Wedding
*3:20, *5:25, 7:30

Monday - Thursday
My Big Fat Greek Wedding
*5:45, 7:45
*These shows at \$4.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com

Community Events

At the Library

Tuesday, August 20, 7 p.m. Cliffhangers for ages 5 to 8.
Thursday, August 22, 10:15 a.m. Drop-In Storytime for ages 3 to 5.

Meet Justin Ross At Roosevelt Center

On Tuesday, August 27, former Greenbelt Mayor Gil Weidenfeld and his wife Micki will host a Candidate Meet and Greet for District 22 House of Delegates candidate Justin Ross, who is the only House of Delegates candidate from Greenbelt. All Greenbelt residents are invited to the event, which will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the New Deal Café at Roosevelt Center. Light refreshments will be served.

Ross will be discussing his priorities for Prince George’s County, which include public education, crime-fighting, and smart growth redevelopment. He will also answer questions concerning his vision for Prince George’s County. Ross has been endorsed by Congressman Albert Wynn, who is an invited guest for the evening. For more information contact Nathaniel Kronisch at 301-454-8190 or visit the Ross Campaign website at www.ross2002.com.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald
The business meeting was held on August 7 with President Ima Davis presiding.
There are two trips planned by the travel committee. On August 18 the club will go to the Charles Town races, have lunch and watch the races. On September 23, 24 and 25 the trip will be to Williamsport, Pa. to see the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, take a cruise and a covered wagon ride. Full payment is due by the end of August. Both trips are open to members and non-members.

The club voted to donate the proceeds from the June yard sale to Camp Pinetree in Greenbelt. A representative from the Recreation Department will accept the check at the next meeting.
Winners of the 50/50 were Mary Geiger and Elsie Forbes.
Micki Weidenfeld introduced Justin Ross, the Democratic candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates from District 22. He is a longtime resident of Greenbelt and said he would work for Greenbelt and the welfare of children and seniors.
The August 21 meeting will be a birthday pot luck and August 28 will be “Open Mike Day.” So come, speak up and be heard.

MPT to Air GAVA/ GATE Animation

The GAVA/GATE animation program will be featured on the Maryland Public Television (Channel 22) program “Artworks this Week,” on Thursday, August 29 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, August 31 at 10:30 a.m. On August 31 GATE is also sponsoring the Greenbelt Filmworks Festival at the Old Greenbelt Theatre in Roosevelt Center at midnight, at the closing of the Labor Day Festival. Refreshments will be available and donations will be accepted.

GIAC Needs Help For Booth, Parade

The Greenbelt Internet Access Committee (GIAC) needs people to staff its Information Day booth at Roosevelt Center during the Labor Day Festival. GIAC needs about six people who can each volunteer an hour to tell others about the benefits of using GIAC to receive internet access. Being part of a cooperative means sharing some of the work. “Please volunteer an hour on Saturday to help inform others about GIAC,” said GIAC’s spokesperson.

GIAC also needs people to march in the Greenbelt Labor Day parade. Two years ago GIAC took third place and received a trophy and \$30. This year they are aiming for the gold. GIAC would like to have a good crowd of GIAC members and urges their participation.

People who are able to help in either the booth or parade are asked to send an email to Mary Camp at giac@greenbelt.com or leave a message on GIAC’s voice mail at 301-419-8044 as soon as possible.

Take a College Class Locally at ERHS

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) is the nearby location for Prince George’s College credit courses in accounting, art, biology, business, computer information systems, developmental math, English, reading, engineering technology, English history, management, mathematics, marketing, music, paralegal, sociology and speech.

Offered are one-evening-per-week, daytime and weekend classes, beginning August 26. There is a fee.

In-person registration takes place at the Largo campus, Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, August 17 and 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For further information call 301-322-0785.

Campground Needs Volunteer Park Host

Greenbelt Park Campground is seeking a volunteer campground host from September through March 2003. Duties include helping with the day-to-day operation of the 178-site campground, especially at night. The host should be someone who is friendly and outgoing and enjoys people of all ages and backgrounds. The position requires good communications skills and an RV or camper.

Applications with resumes will be taken until Friday, August 30. Send a resume to Greenbelt Park Campground, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770, Attn: Campground host position. For more information, call 301-344-3944 or check the park’s website at www.nps.gov/gree/.

Open House for New Students, Parents

Springhill Lake Elementary School will hold an open house for new students and their parents on Thursday, August 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The students and parents will have a chance to meet their teachers, tour the school, see the students’ new classrooms, and meet other students before the official opening of school.

PTSA to Discuss Plans for Future

There will be a PTSA planning meeting on Tuesday, August 20 at 7 p.m. in the Eleanor Roosevelt High School cafeteria conference room. The next night, August 21, there will be a Grad Night meeting at 7 p.m. in the same location.

Topics for the PTSA planning meeting include highlights from the ERHS school administrator/department head retreat; the proposed budget for the school year; selecting topics for upcoming PTSA meetings; discussion of a proposal for an ARTS committee to boost the arts at ERHS; and updates from the Grad Night, communications, membership, fund raising committees.

Help Clear Woods Of Foreign Plants

The GHI Woodlands committee will be removing invasive plant species in parcel B at a work session on Sunday, August 18 from 10 a.m. to noon. Those wishing to participate should meet at the path leading into the woods between courts 58 and 62 of Ridge Rd.; the group will focus on removing Japanese Stilt Grass to help improve the health of Greenbelt’s wooded areas. Instruction will be provided, but bring gloves and be prepared for mosquitoes and poison ivy. Mosquito repellant is strongly recommended due to the current health concerns over West Nile Virus which is spread through mosquito bites. For more information, contact Leslie Brothers, 301-474-7421.

Greenbriar to Show “Spy Kids” Movie

Greenbriar and Glen Oaks children are invited to view a movie on Tuesday, August 20 at 1 p.m. in the Terrace Room. The movie shown will be “Spy Kids.” Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for the event but reservations should be made by calling Tina at 301-441-1096.

Greenbelt Writers To Meet Friday

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Writers Group will be Friday, August 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center.
All Greenbelters interested in writing are invited to attend.

City Notes

The week of August 5 the horticulture crew watered landscaping and young trees throughout the city and removed a storm-damaged Bradford pear tree in Greenbelt East.
The parks crew installed a chain-link fence at the playground on Breezewood Drive and with the help of the streets crew removed the retaining wall, shrubs and soil along the side of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Used timbers were transported to a facility which accepts construction debris. The crew also continued repair of the base of the statue in Roosevelt Center.
The streets crew patched asphalt on Hanover Parkway near Roosevelt High School and repaired pot holes around the city, repaired the gate on the animal impound area and transported used asphalt and concrete to the Recycling Center.

Festival Notes

It is less than three weeks until the city’s 48th Annual Labor Day Festival and the Committee is promising great weather again this year.
In the meantime, festival fundraising continues in case of that proverbial rainy day.

Pre-Festival Fundraising
There will be one more bake sale before the festival on Saturday, August 24 on the Co-op ramp. Proud-to-Be-American T-shirts are still available in all sizes. Raffle tickets for \$200 worth of Co-op groceries are currently being sold. The above items can also be purchased by calling Patti Brothers at 301-982-2312.

Festival Fundraising
Fundraising activities will continue all through the festival and will be based out of the Information Booth. The grocery raffle tickets and patriotic T-shirts will still be available for purchase. Glow sticks and glow necklaces – always popular with the little ones as well as teenagers and adults – will also be sold all weekend long.

On Stage
The festival stage will be the setting for some of the area’s finest entertainment. The marquee musical group this year is Shoe Suede Blues featuring Peter Tork (formerly of The Monkees). This is a very special Sunday afternoon treat for festival-goers and should not be missed. Diamond Alley, returning to the festival after a year away, will open up the entertainment on Friday night with their great sounds. On Saturday, the stage is the home for great kids’ entertainment (starting at 1 p.m.) with the Good Life Theater featuring a return engagement from the ever-popular Joe Pipik and his Backpack Puppets, to be followed by the astounding Amazing Lula. Mister Don will follow with music for kids and adults alike – sure to result in fun for everyone. Norman Evans will then take over with his ever-popular original jazz tunes. The Saturday nighttime stage will host The Nighthawks, a festival favorite, with their great blues. On Sunday the stage entertainment begins at noon with Shoe Suede Blues who play great blues, originals and oldies (with some Monkees’ tunes thrown in). Then the enjoyable John Hill, straight from up north, returns with his easy-listening sounds and to be followed by Ida Seibert whose beautiful voice sets the tone for the Miss Greenbelt finals. Wayne Brown and 2nd Conspiracy will fill the last night of the festival with great rock and roll – sure to get everyone moving. The stage on Monday will feature 24U, a duo that plays songs ranging from Celine Dion to Elvis and who will provide a relaxing end-of-festival afternoon.

Art Show
The Labor Day Art Shows take place at the Community Center and are sponsored by the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts (GAVA). There are two shows: one for adults and one for children and teens. This is the 39th year for a popular event that gives Greenbelt artists of all ages and abilities the opportunity to acquaint the community with their work. Entries for the art



show will be accepted on Friday, August 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Fliers with complete information are available at the Community Center and the Greenbelt Library. Barbara Simon, Labor Day art show chair, can be reached at 301-474-2192 for further information.

Photo Show
Entries for the photo show will be accepted also on Friday, August 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Call Keith Zevallos at 301-474-5542 or Anne Zevallos at 301-345-3770 for additional information. Entry is free and recognition will be given to winners in various categories.

Information Day
There are still a few spots for groups to participate in Information Day. This day provides them an opportunity to share their cause, mission or product (no sales are permitted) with festival goers. Those who want to participate should contact Dave Pitts at 301-345-9605 for more information and an application.

Talent Show
Call now to reserve a spot in the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Talent Show because the audition/rehearsal day is quickly approaching. The talent show is on Saturday, August 31 at 6 p.m. and the audition/rehearsal is next Tuesday, August 20 at 7 p.m. in Dining Hall #2 of the Community Center. Call Dennis Lewis at 301-552-9078 for more information.

Parade
Parade Chairperson Linda Ivy is still accepting applications for this year’s Labor Day parade – marching bands, majorettes, dancers, dogs, horses – groups of all types are invited to participate. Ivy can be reached at 301-441-9414. Parade applications can also be obtained on-line at www.greenbelt.com.

Shuttle Buses
The festival will offer shuttle bus service from various points in the city. Vans will run from satellite locations at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt Elementary and Green Ridge House. The back of the festival pullout (which will be in the August 22nd issue of the News Review) will contain the shuttle schedule.

Business Donations
Businesses who are interested in supporting the festival can contact Patti Brothers at 301-982-2312. Donating businesses will be recognized at the festival itself and in the festival program.

Ticket Sellers
Individuals interested in being ticket sellers and volunteers in general are still needed to assist with this year’s festival. This is a great opportunity for students in grades 7 through 12 who need community hours to fulfill that requirement. Ticket sellers must be at least 15 years old. Volunteers who are not students are also more than welcome to come and help out. Call Patti Brothers at 301-982-2312 for more information about general volunteer positions. Call Lenny Wertz at 301-864-0254 for ticket seller positions. There will be a mandatory meeting for ticket sellers on Tuesday, August 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Museum News

Greenbelt Pioneers Recall Formative Experiences

by Sandra Lange

The Friends of the Greenbelt Museum often receive letters from pioneer family members who have moved away. Recently Jane Ellen (Johnson) Christy wrote to us from her home in Lawrenceville, Ga. She and her parents, Lew and Genevieve Johnson, lived at 5-F Ridge Road. In the 1940s, her father was head of the Weather Bureau's Printing Division and her mother ran the lunch counter at the drug store (now Beijing Restaurant).

Christy vividly remembers one summer night when some older boys played a trick on her and her friend Esther Wolfe by sending them out to hunt "snipe" and "left us with a paper bag and string to catch the snipes. We laughed about that for a long time," she wrote.

During World War II, the Marine Corps called her father for service but the Weather Bureau would not release him, she said. "Dad told me that he knew when D-Day was scheduled [because he] printed the [weather] maps . . . for the [day of] the attack," she noted.

Among her favorite memories are paying 25 cents to go to the Greenbelt Theater, where she enjoyed the newsreels, previews and double feature movies; getting kicked out of the theater for popping a loud popcorn bag just as an usher walked down the aisle; having a pajama party with over 20 girls that forced her dad to spend the night sleeping in his car.

Another time "two boys . . . extended one of our girl classmates out the second floor window of Greenbelt High just as the principal was showing visitors around our high school grounds. Wow, did he ever stomp into our science classroom right after that and we all got it. . . . I had a wonderful growing up and it is something that I have always treasured," she said. Christy also remembered how she was recruited for her first job at age 17 by representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency who came to Greenbelt High School.

Another pioneer, Bob Sommers, remembers being recruited by the C & P Telephone Company. One of his first assignments as a new lineman in the fall of 1942 was to go out to Behnke's Nursery, then one small greenhouse on U.S. 1, to turn off their service. Behnke had notified the company that he couldn't pay his telephone bill until spring when his business would resume.

Pioneer Ray Bochert, Jr., now living in Dawson Springs, Ken., worked at the Greenbelt Theater as an usher for 35 cents an hour until he enlisted in the Navy in 1945.

Many pioneers tell the Museum about enjoying the playgrounds, sledding down Ridge Road when it snowed, ice skating on the lake, meeting their friends at the "Drop Inn" (forerunner of the Youth Center) at night, swimming at the Greenbelt pool every day in the summer, jitterbugging to Tommy Dorsey's and Glen Miller's music. Many played on basketball and softball teams. Ray Bochert remembers pitching horseshoes at the Beltsville Farm.

The late Bruce Bowman, who died at age 88 on July 16, 2002, came to Greenbelt in 1944. Although he was serving in World

War II at the time, his family "found a very welcoming atmosphere because there were a lot of young families living here, mostly mothers and children without their husbands and fathers," Bowman recalled in a 1980 oral history interview with a University of Maryland student.

Genesis of GHI

As a proponent of the cooperative movement, Bruce was instrumental in forming the housing cooperative. During the late 1940s, Greenbelt was still owned and operated by the federal government. But many people in Congress wanted to sell the town and the houses, Bowman stated. "This disturbed a lot of people because . . . the size of your house was determined by the size and make-up of your family, and you paid rents according to what you earned. And, naturally, if it were to be sold to any private interests, this procedure would have to end, and would probably result in high rents for the housing we already occupied . . . [After a time] some of us decided that [we would not want Greenbelt to be] sold to a large insurance company or something like that where we would have no control, no say in the operation, [so] we tried to lobby for Greenbelt to be sold on a negotiated basis to a resident housing cooperative," Bowman said. This was the beginning of what later became Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

Pioneers, or children of pioneers, who have not recorded their recollections are urged to call the museum curators at 301-507-6582. The Greenbelt Museum, 10-B Crescent Road, is open for tours on Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m.



Psychiatrist Dr. Charlotte, played by Verlene Biddings Goho, meets with Lee (Fran Calhoun) and her son Hank (John Hefner). For a full review of the latest GAC play "Marvin's Room," see page 9.

Kepler – Yost

Jeanne Kepler and Matt Yost were married August 3, 2002, on a private ridge of the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

Jeanne is the daughter of Earl and Terry Kepler of Laurel Hill Road. She was a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1996, and Frostburg State College in May 2000.

Jeanne moved to the Grand Canyon in August of 2000, where she lives and works as an elementary school teacher, presently teaching fourth grade. Matt is the cafeteria manager.

The couple will continue to live at the canyon. They honeymooned at the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas.

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-Baha'i Sacred Writings
Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
Information about the Baha'i Faith is on the World Wide Web at <http://www.bahai.org/>

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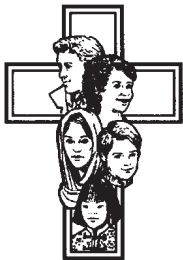
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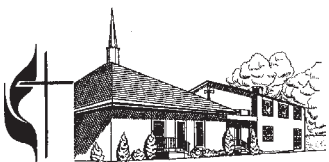
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Wed. Praise and Prayer 7 pm
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TOWNS continued from page 1

trance enters a utility room and also serves as a mud room on a rainy day. The utility rooms contained a double wash tub, washing machine, dryer, hot water heater, and a gas boiler for central hot water heat. Each unit has its own boiler. These units seem to be more viable than the frame house in which I used to live in Greenbelt.

Heating Systems

Nowhere in Greenhills nor in Greendale did I see any place where, even in the past, a centralized heating system was used. In historic Greenbelt, each row was heated by a single boiler; and in the defense homes, many blocks of homes were heated by a single boiler, truly embracing the concept of central heat.

In Greenhills I felt a bit of déjà vu. The old bathhouse of the Greenbelt pool is present there as the entrance to the pool. The shade court at the end of the pool is identical to ours in Greenbelt. The former high school, which is now a community center, looks like the old section of Greenbelt Middle School, with new additions. Their business section mall is viable with many eating places, food stores, etc. I do not know if the village subsidizes it. I did not see a movie theater in either village. Greenhills does have its own volunteer fire department and rescue squad. It also has its own police department, and when I was there on a Sunday afternoon its working staff of one was on duty. From him I got some history and a map of the village.

All three towns use a council-city manager form of government. However, Greenbelt's council of five is the smallest. Greendale's council, if I remember



The bridge across the stream valley in the middle of Greendale, Wisc. connects the inner walkway system to the shopping center.

correctly, consists of six plus a directly elected mayor. Greenhill's council consists of ten plus a directly elected mayor. Greenbelt's mayor by tradition is the councilmember with the most votes in the election.

Major Differences

I think that the major differences between Greenbelt and the other two green towns are 1) our art deco architecture, 2) the presence of pedestrian tunnels in our internal walkway, and 3) the presence of many cooperatives here. The presence of GHI and its requirement of owner occupation of each unit protected the original home and community design. The presence of the Greenbelt News Review cooperative maintained the community spirit which is somewhat unique to Greenbelt. And the presence of the Co-op market and the Credit Union makes the center a viable entity. But a lot of this was due to the fact that Greenbelt was not originally accepted by the rest of the population of Maryland and the use of cooperatives was a necessity. This was especially true when Twin Pines and the original Greenbelt Consumer Service were formed. In turn these co-ops created an activism in Greenbelt for which the city is known. In the other green towns, I guess the spirit of rugged individualism



PHOTOS BY JORDAN CHOPER

The same plans were used for both the Greenbelt and Greenhills' swimming pool bath houses. Since then, both have been substantially modified to be the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center and Greenhills' pool administration building.

which is so prevalent in the mid-west prevailed. Our visits to Greendale, Wisc., and to Greenhills, Ohio, were cursory at best. I really cannot say that I know these towns in depth. Someday, someone interested in urban planning should do an in-

depth study of the three towns and analyze how they are similar and establish how and why they differ from each other.



City Information



OPENINGS ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups. Vacancies exist on the:

Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee

For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 19-23

Wednesday, August 21, CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, Council & Manager: CAR Report Quarterly Review/New Evaluation Tool; 8:00pm, Community Center.

GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER

ANNUAL INDOOR POOL CLOSING AUGUST 19-25

ANNUAL FITNESS WING CLOSING AUGUST 20-21

CALL 301-397-2204 for more information & outdoor pool hours during that week.

THE RECYCLING BIN

Plastics Update!

Only plastic containers marked with:

PETE (#1) or HDPE (#2) Symbols

are acceptable for recycling in your yellow curbside recycling bin and at the Recycling Drop-Off Center. No other plastics are being accepted for recycling at this time.



Containers that once held hazardous materials are not accepted for recycling — regardless of their markings. These containers must be taken to Prince George's County Hazardous Waste Collection held every Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill in Upper Marlboro.

Thanks for recycling!

Contact the City Recycling Office at 301-474-8308 for further information on recycling.

Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center SUMMER ADMISSION POLICY



101 Centerway-301-397-2204

A Greenbelt resident is required to show a valid I.D. to pay daily admission at all times.

On weekends and holidays, entrance is restricted to Passholders, residents and their guests. A passholder or Greenbelt resident may bring a maximum of three (3) guests upon payment of the admission fee. They must sign their guests in, remain at the facility and are responsible for them at all times.

The Aquatic and Fitness Center staff realize there may be some extenuating circumstances to the above policy. Give us a call at least 48 hours in advance of your visit and maybe we can help.

GREENBELT ACCESS CHANNEL 71



Municipal Access 301-474-8000

Tuesday & Thursday, 8/20 & 8/22: 6pm "Camp Pine Tree Talent Show"; 7:30pm "Creative Kids Camp Session III - Homeward Bound"

Public Access 301-507-6581

Wednesday & Friday, 8/21 & 8/23: 7pm "Boy Scout Troop #746"; 7:30pm "Joseph Harland Lillard, A Remembrance"; 8pm "Betty the Yeti"



Justin with His Wife Nancy

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- Graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and the University of Maryland, B.A. Government & Politics
- Real Estate Consultant for The Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority and the Gateway Arts and Entertainment District
- Elected Member of the Democratic Central Committee Since 1998 and Former President of the Prince George's County Young Democrats

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By Authority: Jane L. Ross Treasurer

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Fleishmann's Margarine All Varieties	Wampler Italian Turkey Breast
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Lever 2000 Bath Bar Soap	\$1⁴⁹ 2 Pk.
Nestea Iced Tea Mix	\$2⁶⁹ 53 oz.
Sun Maid Lunchbox Seedless Raisins	99¢ 6 Pk.
New! Dixie Rinse & Reuse Plates	\$1⁶⁹ 20 Pk.-9 In.
Chase & Sanborn All Purpose Ground Coffee	\$1³⁹ 11.5 oz. Can
Best Yet Original Roll Paper Towels	59¢ 85 Sheets
Jif Peanut Butter	\$1⁵⁹ 18 oz.
Lipton Tea Bags	\$1⁹⁹ 100 Bags
Pillsbury Brownie Mix Cheese Swirl-Moist & Rich	99¢ 15-19 oz.
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Best Yet Mint Mouthwash Blue-Green	\$1⁸⁹ 1 Liter
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POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Grenbelt Police Department.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

6000 block Springhill Drive, August 3, 4:28 p.m., a woman answered a knock on her door from someone claiming to be the cable man. When the woman opened the door, the suspect forced his way inside while brandishing a dark-colored handgun. The suspect announced a robbery and then forced the victim and her child into a closet. From there, the victim could hear the voice of a second suspect also inside the apartment. The suspects ransacked the residence, taking jewelry. Neither the victim nor her child was injured. The first suspect is described as a black male, about 20, dark complexion, wearing dark clothing; no information on the second suspect.

Greenway Center, August 5, 10:07 a.m. 9300 block Edmonston Road, August 7, 9:16 p.m., a man had left his vehicle and was walking in the parking lot when he was approached by a man carrying a black handgun. The victim fled the scene on foot and called police. The suspect is described as a black male, 5'7", thin, wearing a red and blue shirt and black shorts.

Assault

6200 block Breezewood Drive, August 6, 8:38 p.m., a Greenbelt resident, 21, was arrested and charged with two counts of first-degree assault and related offenses. Officers responded to a report of a violent domestic disturbance where the male was armed with a knife. Witnesses said the suspect had just left, and police found him nearby. A victim said the suspect had threatened her and threw cans of food at her while she was holding an infant. The suspect also tried to sexually assault another victim in the residence. The victim with the infant fled the residence, at which time the suspect chased her with a hammer. The suspect ran through the closed sliding glass door, breaking it and receiving several lacerations and abrasions in the process. Outside, the suspect threw the hammer at the victim but missed her. He refused treatment for his injuries and was released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

Indecent Exposure

6200 block Breezewood Drive, August 6, 3:17 p.m., the victim advised that she observed a woman exposing herself to motorists driving by. The woman then fled the scene. The suspect is described as a black female, 22 to 30, 5'5", 125 lbs., wearing a white top and skirt and a red bandana.

Theft

Lakeside Drive, July 30, 8:30 p.m., a blue and grey Magna 21-speed bicycle and a purple Magna 12-speed bicycle were taken from an unsecured shed. Area of Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Road, August 8, 1:32 p.m., unattended golf clubs were taken from the side of the road after they were left there accidentally by the owner.

Beltway Plaza, August 5, 1:32 p.m., a cellular telephone was taken from a purse at the Academy 8 Theaters.

Greenbelt Marriott, Ivy Lane, August 5, 10:51 p.m., an unattended back pack accidentally left in a parking lot was taken by unknown persons.

Beltway Plaza, August 6, 3:35 p.m., someone removed a tote bag from a shopping cart at the Target store.

Greenbelt Marriott, Ivy Lane, August 7, 1:21 p.m., a yellow Honda moped was taken from the parking lot. A man described as a black male wearing a black T-shirt was seen getting on the moped and driving it away.

Burglary

6000 block Springhill Drive, August 4, 10 a.m., someone used unknown means to enter a residence. Clothing, jewelry and CDs were taken.

Vandalism

6 Court Ridge Road, August 4, 1:09 p.m., someone broke out the living room window of a residence, possibly with a pellet gun.

St. Hugh's school, August 5, 11:21 a.m., someone threw a ball at a classroom window, breaking it.

Trespassing

T.G.I. Friday restaurant, August 3, 9:33 p.m., a 22-year-old Mitchellville man was arrested and charged with trespassing after he was seen on the restaurant property from which he had been banned a week earlier. He was released on citation pending trial.

Drug Arrests

7500 block Hanover Parkway, August 2, 4:14 p.m., after a traffic stop, two D.C. men, 18 and 19, were arrested and charged with possession of (crack) cocaine and intent to distribute as well as other charges. One of the men tried to flee the area on foot, but was caught after a short chase. While attempting to swallow a baggie containing several packages of suspected crack cocaine, he assaulted a second officer who arrived to assist in the arrest. A passenger in the suspected vehicle was arrested after interfering in the arrest of the first suspect. Both men were released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were reported stolen: a blue 1999 Dodge Caravan, Md. tags M251372, August 4 from the 6200 block Greenbelt Road; a 2000 Dodge Intrepid four-door, August 4 from the 9300 block of Edmonston Road, was recovered the next day by the owner in the 6000 block Springhill Drive; a red 1995 Dodge Neon four-door, August 5, from the 2 Court Southway; a 1987 Buick Electra four-door, August 5, from the 7600 block Hanover Parkway, recovered the next day by Metropolitan Police in southeast D.C.; a gold 1994 Honda Accord station wagon, Md. tags JYB211, August 5, from the 6000 block Springhill Drive; a blue 1988 Toyota Camry four-door, Va. tags SWD110, August 5, from Beltway Plaza; a

1993 Mazda 626 four-door, August 5, from the 9000 block Edmonston Road, recovered the same day by county police in District Heights; a black 1995 Plymouth Neon four-door, Md. tags JSC123, August 5 from the 2 Court Southway; a white 2002 Ford Econoline E150 van, Md. tags 20J864, August 7 from the 9100 block Edmonston Terrace; a blue 2002 Honda Passport truck, Md. tags AEE90S, August 8, from the 9000 block Edmonston Terrace; a white 1995 Nissan Maxima four-door, Md. tags BWH4234, August 8, from the 6200 block Springhill Drive.

Three stolen vehicles were recovered; no arrests were involved.

After a traffic stop, a 24-year-old and a 17-year-old, both Capitol Heights residents, were arrested for theft. A computer check revealed that the vehicle, a 1983 Cadillac Seville four-door, had been reported stolen. The juvenile was released to a guardian and the older suspect was released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

Vandalism to, thefts from and attempted theft of vehicles were reported in the following areas: 8000 block Mandan Road; 9100 block Springhill Lane; 400 block Ridge Road (two incidents); 6900 block Hanover Parkway (two incidents); area of Laurel Hill and Hillside; 100 block Greenhill; 9200 block Springhill Lane; 9000 block Edmonston Road; 7 Court Southway; 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace; 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive; 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace; 200 block Lakeside Drive; 7800 block Walter Drive.

Columbia Bank Robbed

The Columbia Bank on Greenway Center Drive in Greenbelt East was robbed during the morning of August 5. At about 10 a.m. the robber entered the bank and produced a handgun. He ordered the manager to take money from each of the tellers and put the money into a bag. After taking the money the robber fled, getting into a vehicle described as a white box-type van driven by an accomplice.

The description of the robber provided by the Greenbelt police is a black male, age 26 to 35, 5'10" in height, 200 pounds, with an "Afro" style haircut, an unkempt beard and mustache and wearing a gray sleeveless T-shirt, blue jean shorts and sneakers. There is no description for the driver of the van.

UNGER

continued from page 1

She retired in 1997 as GED Coordinator and lead teacher on a staff of 13, retaining membership in the American Correctional Association and the International Correctional Education Association.

Unger is a past president of the Prince George's County Council of Democratic Clubs and a charter member (1976) and past president (currently corresponding secretary) of the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club of Greenbelt. In November 2001 she was elected first vice president of the state-wide United Democratic Women's Clubs of Maryland. In that position, she is a member of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Democratic Party.

ACT Deadline Looms for High Schoolers

The next ACT Assessment will be administered on September 28. College-bound high school students must register for the college admissions exam by August 23, the deadline for having the registration postmarked. There is a late registration postmark deadline of September 6, but an extra fee is charged for late registrations. Students can get registration packets from their high school counselors or register

online at www.act.org. There is a fee.

ACT's website (www.act.org) has helpful information, sample tests and the opportunity to order test prep materials such as ACTIVE Prep, an interactive CD-ROM that contains practice tests with instant scores and study plans. A free sample test is available from high school counselors in a brochure called Preparing for the ACT Assessment.

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A Review

"Marvin's Room" Challenges GAC

by Virginia Beauchamp

We never get to see Marvin's room, which provides the title for the play currently on the boards at the Greenbelt Arts Center, but we can glimpse its occupant through a translucent window at center stage rear. Or rather, we can see his head in silhouette from behind as he lies in bed and hear his garbled croaks and groans. He has had a stroke and from time to time wakes up from troubled sleep. He is never the center of action, but his presence in part explains the other characters and what they do.

Most important is the daughter who cares for him – the slight, unmarried Bessie. Then there's his sister, Aunt Ruth, who lives in the home and does her confused and confusing best to help. Later in the play another daughter, Lee, who had left home, and avoided the exigencies of family life 20 years earlier, now returns with two young sons in tow.

Lee returns, not to help out with her father, but to offer a bone marrow transplant for her sister, recently diagnosed with leukemia. The two boys are standbys for a possible bone marrow match. Bessie's diagnosis occurs at a visit to a doctor in the play's first act.

It is apparent that the GAC team of actors has put in much time in rehearsal. Under Sheila Crossley-Cox's skilled direction, they have produced uniformly fine performances. Susan Harper as Bessie is believably the sweet and thoughtful center of this otherwise dysfunctional household. Norma Ozur as Ruth offers an effective, often comic, portrayal of the well-intentioned, likable though dizzy, aunt. Young Carl Wilson handles his role as sister

Lee's second son with practiced competence, though his speaking role is small.

Aside from the role of Bessie, the two major speaking parts belong to Fran Calhoon as sister Lee and John Hefner as her troubled and confrontational teenage son Hank. Their strident interchanges are absolutely believable, though uncomfortable to overhear. How both are affected by their respective reacquaintance and acquaintance with Bessie is the main theme of the play.

Play Construction

The play itself is a major challenge to put on, and the theatrical crew, as well as the performers, have met it with aplomb. Each of the two acts is divided into seven different scenes, each requiring a complete change of set. One set – Bessie's home – is combined living room, dining area, and kitchen, with elaborate furniture (an easy chair and other seating, plus an oval dining table, and a wall of three kitchen appliances to move on and off).

There is also the doctor's room with examining table and another scene in a hospital room complete with real hospital bed. A scene at Disney World is managed simply but gaily with posters and balloons. Clearly the stage crew have been well rehearsed in their movements to clear and reconfigure the stage.

But however adept their actions, the momentum of a play so often interrupted is difficult to sustain. The play's construction appears far better suited to cinema, where scenes can fade easily into one another, or at least to a more elaborate facility with a revolving stage.

Though some of the play's

business garnered laughs from the audience, such as the mismanaged office of the doctor in scene 1 (played by GAC regular Philip Brandis), the purpose of that scene seemed irrelevant. We don't need to meet the doctor, and the competence of the medical analysis should be crucial to the play's theme.

Bessie's regular doctor, who carries out the medical protocol, is an off-stage entity, and the results are reported, as they well should be. We don't need to see her in the examination room with the substitute doctor, holding out

her arm for a blood sample. Nor, in a later scene, learn that a bone marrow sample will be taken.

Structurally the play should begin with Bessie and her home circumstances, through which we begin to understand her character. Then it should lead us into knowledge of her medical crisis. All this could be accomplished in a single scene with a single set.

Perhaps the second scene in such a conception would switch us to Ohio, where Lee and her son are introduced, and where they first learn the news from Bessie. By Act 2 they have

moved to Bessie's home (read Marvin's place) in Florida, where mother and son are eventually both transformed.

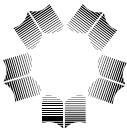
GAC is to be commended for taking on this challenging play by Scott McPherson. Over the years they have premiered and commissioned a fair number of new works. For the author this still seems to be a work in progress.

Performances will continue on Fridays and Saturdays through August 24 at 8 p.m. There will be a matinee on Sunday, August 18 at 2 p.m.

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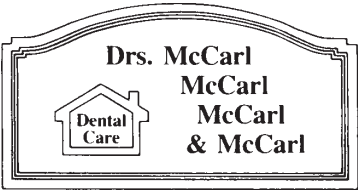
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